



CRICKHOWELL RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT 1944

J. S. TOWNLEY.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit a brief report for the year 1944, on the lines indicated by the Welsh Board of Health.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Population - Registrar General's estimate = 6,525.

Total Births = 100. Male 49. Female 51.

Total Deaths = 83. Male 45. Female 38.

Birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population = 15.33

Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population = 12.72

Still Births = 4. Rate per 1,000 = 40.

Transferable Deaths = 18. Inward 13. Outward 5.

Infantile Mortality rate = 50 per 1,000.

Extracts from Vital Statistics.

DEATHS.

<u>Causes.</u>	M.	F.
All Causes	45	38
1. Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers	0	0
2. Cerebro-spinal Fever	1	0
3. Scarlet Fever	0	0
4. Whooping Cough	0	0
5. Diphtheria	0	0
6. Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	0	0
7. Other forms of Tuberculosis	0	0
8. Syphilitic Diseases	0	0
9. Influenza	0	0
10. Measles	0	0
11. Acute Polio-myelitis & Polio-encephalitis	0	0
12. Acute Infective Encephalitis	1	0
13. Cancer of Buccal Cavity & Oesophagus (M) Uterus (F)	2	0
14. Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum	2	1
15. Cancer of Breast	0	0
16. Cancer of all other sites	1	3
17. Diabetes	1	2
18. Intra-cranial vascular lesions	1	3
19. Heart Disease	13	15
20. Other Diseases of Circulatory System	5	1
21. Bronchitis	0	2
22. Pneumonia	1	0
23. Other Respiratory Diseases	0	0
24. Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	0	0
25. Diarrhoea under 2 years	0	0
26. Appendicitis	0	0
27. Other Digestive Diseases	1	0
28. Nephritis	3	1
29. Puerperal & Post-abortion Sepsis	0	1
30. Other Maternal Causes	0	0

<u>Causes.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>
31. Premature Birth	1	1
32. Congenital Malformation; Birth Injuries; Infantile Diseases	2	0
33. Suicide	0	0
34. Road Traffic Accidents	1	1
35. Other Violent Causes	0	1
36. All Other Causes	9	6

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

Inspections have been carried out continuously throughout the district and Informal and Statutory Notices were served where necessary.

Inspections made - 1,406
 Informal Notices - 62
 Statutory Notices - 5

W A T E R.

Crickhowell Parish.

All the houses in Crickhowell Town, in which live most of the people in Crickhowell Parish, have piped supplies. The springs in regular use are situated on the Table Mountain, Ty-yn-y-wlad Farm and rear of Llanbedr Road. During a drought the springs at Ffynnon-Est are brought in to augment the Town supply. All these springs, with the exception of Llanbedr Road, are caught from fissures in rocks. The intake chambers at these points are properly built in, covered, and protected. At Llanbedr Road spring the water is caught from percolations under the surface of the ground but the same type of harnessing and protection is carried out. The intake chambers from the four springs referred to are connected by cast iron or steel mains to well constructed and covered storage tanks from which the water is piped to various zones in the Town. However, these zones are interconnected so that during an extreme drought the reduced water yields can be shared throughout the Town. Thus the water is entirely enclosed and protected from springs to consumer. No chemical treatment is carried out.

The Council have had under consideration for some years the question of augmenting the Town supply as during an extreme drought it has been difficult to maintain a constant supply on high levels on Llanbedr Road. It is believed that this difficulty has been increased by the fact that many of the services may have been put in eighty years ago and are in a bad condition, thus causing leakages. To overcome these a considerable amount of work has been carried out in the detection and replacement of these defective services. However, this has been difficult during war time owing to the scarcity of materials and the shortage of labour - the Council's only Fitter, a man of seventy years of age, having to attend to springs, storage tanks, mains, and valves, as well as carrying out private work, the latter being necessary to avoid waste, and which cannot otherwise be dealt with as there are no private plumbers in the district. The latter remarks apply equally to other parishes in the district.

Other Parishes.

The Council have called for a report on water supplies in the following parishes:- Cwmdu, Llangattock, Llanelly, Llangynidr, Llangenny, Llanbedr and Partrishow. Your Sanitary Surveyor, together with the Council's Consulting Engineers, will shortly produce a report on existing supplies with suggestions as to improvements and extensions in order that the Council may put forward schemes under the Rural Water Supplies and Sewerage Act, 1944.

Water from Outside Authorities.

The water mains of the Abertillery Water Board and the Newport Corporation pass through certain parts of this district. The Council already have connexions made to the Abertillery Water Board's main and supply houses on Llanelly Hill therefrom. This service, it is hoped, will be extended to the villages of Gellyfelen and Cwmnantgam on Llanelly Hill. The Newport Corporation's water main supplies the following Military Establishments in the district:-

Glanusk Camp
Danyparc "
Court-y-Gollen "
Aberbaiden Hospital

Llangattock Park Mansion, now in military occupation, obtains its water from a private source and there is a connexion thereto from the Llangattock public supply should the former require augmentation. However, Llangattock Park Camp itself is supplied by water from the Newport Corporation's main. The Brigade Headquarters are supplied by water from the Gilwern public supply. The Council have been able to make arrangements with the War Department for a supply to dwelling houses, near Court-y-Gollen Camp, from the Camp's main.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

The following goods, on inspection, were found to be unfit and voluntarily surrendered:-

6 lbs. cheese
86 lbs. oranges
102 tins Pilchards
5 lbs. chopped ham
72 lbs. apples
75 lbs. peas
275 lbs. bacon
1½ lbs. butter
69 lbs. meat
60 lbs. sausages
2 lbs. marmalade
63 tins milk
5 tins Sardines
1 tin Salmon
32 tins meat
2 tins beans
49 pkts Pudding Mixture
3 pkts. Cake Mixture
20 livers.

Slaughterhouses.

The various private slaughterhouses in this district have not operated since the commencement of the war, all slaughtering being done in the neighbouring urban areas where the meat is inspected before coming into this district. The quality of the meat, although free from disease, has not always been (as can be expected in war time) satisfactory. The retailers themselves in this district have often complained of this.

M I L K.

There is close co-operation between this Department and the Ministry of Agriculture and the following is a record of samples taken by the Sanitary Inspector during the year:-

<u>Parish.</u>	<u>A.</u>	<u>B.</u>	<u>C.</u>
Crickhowell	12	4	4
Llangattock	19	4	4
Llanelly	104	12	9
Cwmdu	10	3	2
Llangenny	20	1	
Llanbedr	9	1	2
Llangynidr	19	1	
Partrishow	4		
	<u>197</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>21</u>

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS
AND OTHER DISEASES.

The following cases (other than Tuberculosis) were notified during the year:-

<u>Diseases.</u>	<u>Cases.</u>
Pneumonia	33
Scarlet Fever	4
Diphtheria	2
Cerebro-spinal meningitis	2
Encephalitis Lethargica	1
Measles	26
Whooping Cough	47

Diphtheria Prophylaxis.

During the year 38 children were immunised against Diphtheria; 32 were children under 5 years, and 6 children between the ages of 5 and 15. The numbers of children immunised at 31st December, 1944, were as follows:-

Under 5 years	305
Between 5 & 15 years	1120
Total	<u>1425</u>

The estimated population of children up to 15 years at mid 1944 was 1,632.

Tuberculosis.

A schedule of new cases and removals from the Register is given below:-

New Cases				Removals from Register			
Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
2	1	0	2	0	0	1	0

H O U S I N G .

Plans received:-

Nature of plan.	Situation.	Parish.
Bungalow	Gilwern	Llanelly
Bungalow	Gilwern	Llanelly
Farm Buildings	Gilwern	Llanelly
Temporary Dwelling	Gilwern	Llanelly
School Canteen	Gilwern	Llanelly
*House	Bwlch	Cwmdu
Electricity Extension	Cwmdu	Cwmdu
Bungalow	Clydach	Llanelly
*Alteration.		

Post War Housing.

The Council have given careful consideration to the provision of houses to meet:-

- (a) slum clearance,
- (b) overcrowding, and
- (c) other needs such as the possibility of accommodation being required for new industries.

In this connection three types of houses have been under consideration:-

- (a) temporary houses,
- (b) wooden houses, and
- (c) permanent houses.

The Council fully realise that the housing question is most serious in the parish of Llanelly, especially in the Darenfelen and Clydach wards of that parish.

However, these villages do not possess good building sites and are without a sewerage scheme. Still, the possibility of erecting houses in these two wards has not been given up.

Housing sites have been earmarked in Gilwern (the other ward in the parish of Llanelly) also, in the parishes of Llangattock and Crickhowell, and lay-out plans have been before the Council in regard to each site. There have been interviews with Inspectors from the Welsh Board of Health and the Land Utilisation Officer, as well as co-operative discussions with the County Planning Officer and the County Highway Surveyor.

Sewerage.

Before the war the Council had under consideration the provision of a sewerage scheme for the parish of Llanelly but the Commissioner for Special Areas did not favour such a scheme being extended to the Clydach and Darenfelen wards owing to:-

- (a) cost involved,
- (b) the scattered nature of the houses in these wards, and
- (c) the large proportion of unfit houses.

A sewerage scheme for Llangattock was also under consideration at this time in conjunction with the provision of a new Sewage Disposal Works for Crickhowell. All the foregoing schemes were postponed on the outbreak of war. However, these matters are now being reviewed. In this connection discussions have been taking place between this Council and the War Department for the acquisition of the Court-y-Gollen Camp Sewage Disposal Works, for the joint use of Llangattock Village and Crickhowell Town. Similarly, for the acquisition of the Aberbaiden Military Hospital Sewage Works for the village of Gilwern. In the latter connexion there is a demand that the Council should again approach the appropriate Government Department for the inclusion of Llanelly Hill and Clydach in the Gilwern Scheme. With the awakening of the public to the need and necessity of sewerage schemes, householders in the villages of Glangrwyney, Llangenny, Llanbedr, Cwmdu, Bwlch and Llangynidr, are anxious for improvements of this nature to be extended to their respective villages.

I N F E S T A T I O N .

Since the Council accepted delegation of the powers under the Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act, 1919, the Sanitary Department has carried out campaigns of rat destruction in sewers, sewage disposal works, refuse tips and on private premises, and is in continuous touch with the Ministry of Food in regard to methods and procedure.

S C H O O L S.

The following is a table showing schools closed during the year and reasons for closure:--

<u>School.</u>	<u>Closed.</u>	<u>Reason for closure.</u>
Darenfelen Infs.	20.3.44.- 3.4.44.	Whooping Cough.

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Your obedient Servant,

J.S. TOWNLEY,

27th July, 1945.

Medical Officer of Health.

N.B. Dr. J.S. Townley, M.B., CH.B., L.R.C.P., and S.B., terminated his post as Medical Officer of Health to the Crickhowell Rural District Council on 30th June, 1945.

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